Recd January 5th 1842
Answd Febr 5th —

Washington Decr 25. 1841.

My Dear Friend

A merry Christmas to you! and to all my friends in St Louis. I hope you are surrounded by all the luxuries of the Season & enjoying the best of health to indulge in them. Amen!

You have received I hope my explanatory letter ere this. I have felt mortified at my apparent neglect but you are I hope ere this satisfied. I don't think you ought to have got angry for you should have had charity enough to suppose I had some reason for not writing that would be satisfactory when it came.

Nicollet was here about 12 or 14 days ago, much better. He took your letter & package on to New York to which City he went from here. I have no doubt they are ere this at their proper destination.

I don't think you have any conception of the amt of of an Botanical Collection when you talk of sending it on to you for examination. Why man its a wagon load! there are probably 50.000 specimens alltogether. constituting the greatest mass of novelty in that way ever collected since the ~~voyage~~ one made by Robert Brown. Nuttal says its the most extraordinary collection he ever saw. Besides the innumerable new Genera, it will probably he thinks require some new Orders to embrace some of them. But when they become regularly distributed if there be any part you especially desire to examine I will try to send it on to you. I will particularly attend to the Cuscuta

I see that the letter writers have taken us up. In the Phlaa. Inquirer of last Saturday & the N.Y. Evening Post of the 21st are

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long letters: evidently not from Scientific men however

I have not seen Dr. Linn since the opening of the Session, when I do I will enquire about the western Expedition. But don't encourage Geyer as such matters are always very uncertain.

Mrs. King has been suffering severely for the last two weeks from Tic doloureux. She is now much better.

My respects to all my friends
& believe me sincerely your Friend
H King

Dr. G. Engelmann.

CITY
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M D.

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To
Doct. George Engelmann.
St Louis
Missouri

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Received April 14th
Answd April 16th

Washington April 2. 1842.

My dear Friend

I have to day written to Silas Simms requesting him to forward my Books and to call on you & Dr. Boon for such as may be in your possession. I left several in the library of the Academy, some of which I intended to present to it, but now I cannot tell which and therefore shall leave you to make a reasonable selection. I left with Dr. Boon among some others I believe the "Dictionnaire des termes usités dans les sciences naturelles." (French) which I am particularly in want of, as I do not know that I can get another copy without sending to Europe.

Give my respects to Dr. Boon and tell him that since I wrote him I have seen and held a long conversation with Dr. Hayden of Baltimore, who promised me that on my recommendation he would take the necessary steps to have the honors of the College of Dental Surgery of that City conferred on him. It was the first opportunity I had of forming the acquaintance of any of those connected with that Institution. I have no doubt it will be done.

I have a job for you both. I am preparing the materials for a paper on the Genus Astacus (Cray-fish) I want you to do me the favour to collect me such as are to be found in the vicinity of St. Louis. They need no other preparation than immersion in Spirits. If Dr. Boon should take a fishing excursion to Prairie des Pont in the Marais it will present a favourable opportunity to collect the few species in your vicinity. I have also an apparently undescribed species of Geomys (Gopher) from Louisiana which I want to publish, but want a good specimen of the ordinary

Received April 14th
[illegible]

one – G. bursarius – to compare it with. As they are very abundant in the neighbourhood of St Louis, perhaps you could obtain me one. I want it entire for dissection. If you can get me one, you will please merely make an incision into the abdominal parieties and immerse it in spirits with a small quantity of Corrosive Sublimate in solution. Richardson in his Fauna of North America describes all the species ~~yet~~ then known, but does not embrace the one I have.

The G. bursarius is the Pseudostoma bursarius of Say & Godman. vide Godman Vol 2. p 90 –

I have been very much interested in arranging and examining the Reptiles of our collection. I have made many dissections and obtained some valuable notes. Holbrook I have understood has discontinued his work on the subject for want of patronage. I have it therefore in serious contemplation to take up the subject and carry it out in the transactions of the Institution. You may give me some encouragement by securing for me such things of the thy kind as fall in your way. I have already a considerable collection of our native species, but shall want many more. I am making arrangements for obtaining assistance in the South & South west also. The few found in the North I shall not have much difficulty in getting.

You see that I am beginning to make serious drafts upon your friendship, but as it is in a good cause I do not fear seriously that I shall be protested. I can only say that aside from the gratitude that I shall be obliged always to owe, I shall endeavour to pay you back to the utmost of my ability in kind. From the information recently received, it is expected that the Exg. Squadron will be home in the month of May or June, as soon as they arrive I will obtain from the Botanist, specimens of such Cuscuta as we may have to forward to you. A gentleman now here who left the Sandwich Islands since the Squadron started from thence for home, informs me that they have obtained a most valuable collection, particularly in the Botanical Dept. from the North West Coast of America from a considerable distance interior & as high up as the Russian possessions.

Our friend Nicollet has had several serious attacks since I wrote you last. He is better now however. We had a pleasant walk together last evening and of course our conversation turned to St Louis, and our friends there. The more I see of him here the more I regret I did not know him better, in the West. To one of my reserved perhaps phlegmatic temperament his empressement has the appearance of dissimulation, and unfortunately I was strongly impressed with such an opinion in relation to it in him, in the earlier stages of our acquaintance. A more lengthened & intimate intercourse has taught me the injustice I did him. Much of this in him may be acquired or national, but most I now know to be the effect of a warm and affectionate heart. He always desires to be remembered to you, whenever I write.

We have much talk of War here at this time and there seems little doubt that it will come soon, with Mexico at least. I have learned in such a way as to have little doubt on my mind of its correctness, that our Minister to Mexico has been instructed to demand peremptorily the release of the Americans taken in the Santa Fee expedition & satisfactory provision for the payment of the awards recently made by the Commission that sat in this City, and in case of failure to demand his passports & return home.

I should be very much pleased if I could give Dr Reiss some employment in the Institution, as his valuable assistance would be very desirable, but fear I have not much prospect of doing it. You intimate that he would be pleased to travel, devoting himself in that way to Science. I have had a hint from certain quarters that induces me to hope that I may be useful to him & us in that way, but at present I am not allowed to speak more freely on this subject. I shall keep my Eyes upon it & if there be a ~~prospe~~ certainty will write you. Give him my respects if you please.

I wrote to Dr. Brown a week or two ago. Remember me to him & his family in the kindest manner. To all my friends my best wishes.

For yourself accept the continued assurance of my sincere friendship

H King

Dr. Englemann

Dr. George Engelmann
St Louis
Mo.

25

WASHING
APR

It being Sunday I am obliged to send you this without franking.

Rec'd Mai 19th

Washington May 9. 1842.

My Dear Friend

Yours by Mr Jacoby was handed to me by him on the Steam Boat at the wharf of Philadelphia, just as I had stepped on Board to take passage home. I was on my return from the Meeting of the Association of American Geologists which this year was held in Boston. The meeting with Mr Jacoby was agreeable as unexpected. we travelled together to this City where he came to get his passport. which having done, and after spending a few hours in looking about, he returned to Philadelphia.

Our Geological meeting was very interesting. There were between 30 & 40 members present, embracing Silliman, father & Son, Hitchcock, Jackson, Morton, the three Rogers and several others not forgetting Lyell. We had some very able and interesting papers and discussions before us. The Englishman was evidently astonished at the Geological enquiries that had been made in this country, and spite his John Bullism could not repress the expression, on several occasions, of his feelings. A letter I have just received from a friend in Boston says that the Savans there are satisfied from what they know of the matter, that at the end of the weeks meeting he found himself not near so great a Lion as he previously thought himself. He is a pretty clever fellow however withall. I pressed him very hard to extend the visit he is now making to Cincinnatti to St Louis. and if he comes I bespeake for him a friendly reception, but mind no worship.

Amongst the business done at the meeting was the Election of you & Brown as members of the Association & the placing you on the Committee on the subject of Mounds. This subject attracted a good deal of attention and it was determined to appoint a committee to collect facts in relation to them to be submitted to the next meeting. Prepare yourselves to give or bring a full report of these near

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Recd Mar. 19th

St Louis.

I shall duly present your donations on their arrival, and read your letter at our next meeting. On the subject of exchanges we have already had some preliminary steps taken, but no system can be put in operation until the return of the Ex. Exp.n as ~~they are able~~ the collections made by it have to be carefully examined for new and undescribed species for publication. I hope however to make sufficient progress to commence operations this year.

The only works I know of on American Fishes that will be of much service are the Journals of the Phila. Academy, Boston & New York Lyceums, Mitchel on the Fish of New York & Storer on those of Massachusetts. the latter is in the Boston Journal of Nat History &c. and I would advise you to send for that work. It also contains what Kirtland has done, and is doing on the subject for the west. 3 vols or years have been published and one number of the fourth.

The Boston Collection is about equal to that at Philadelphia. Better on some subjects and not so good on others. The Members of the Lyceum are zealous, industrious and quite intelligent. They have several *good workers*.

I will write to Boston and endeavour to get you a Copy of the Massachusetts reports for the Academy but I am not very sanguine of success. As to the Geological reports of most of the states ~~they~~ they are as yet only partial & therefore of limited value; during the next year or two the complete ones of New York. Penn.a & Virginia will be published which will supercede almost all the rest. These I trust we shall ~~also~~ be able to get. If however in the mean time I can get any of the others I will send them to you.

Mr. Nicollet and Dr. Ducatel accompanied me to Boston. At New York on our return we met Lt. Fremont on his way to the west. He will probably be with you about the time that this arrives.

I am quite flattered with your notice of my Seal. It was a little fancy of my own created by my intercourse with certain persons since my connexion with the National Institution. There are ~~certain~~ people in every part of the world who like to show their importance, and who when they have not the capacity to do it otherwise try to do it by affecting a *patronizing* demeanour. Such persons are particularly common about Seats of Governments. *Some* such are here, and I have seen enough of them to make me believe they would like to play this game upon me. A hint like this of my seal I think will be sufficient to tell them who and what I am, and how I am to be treated. I love the approbation of my friends and am sufficiently ambitious to desire to place myself among and to receive the attention of men of Learning & Science; but these I expect to obtain by my own exertions, and this little device will aid in keeping this constantly before me. You see as was no doubt the case with Körner I had a reason for my fancy.

Believe me Sincerely

your Friend

H. King

Dr. G. Engelmann

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WASHINGTON CITY
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To
Doct. George Engelmann
St Louis
Mo.

Rec^d Jan 26th
Ans. Febr. 12th

Washington Jany 14. 1843.

My Dear Doctor

I see there is no other way of getting a letter from you than by writing for one. So here goes. It is not much less than six months I believe since a letter passed between us and whether the indebtedness is on your part or mine it is beyond the reach of my memory to say. When you get this reply to it at least early enough to let it get here before the 1st of March and send it under cover to "Hon J. C. Edwards M.C" the same whose frank I use in this and then at least our correspondence will cost *us* nothing whatever may be its worth.

So far so good. Now as to affairs here; we are moving on much in the same way as usual. You have long since learned I suppose that I have been *hustled* out of my place as Curator of the Nat. Institution. The *conspirators* against me are now beginning to feel the effects of the reaction. They thought no doubt to drive me out of City as well as the Curatorship, but in that they were mistaken. In my *quiet* way I determined to stay and have my revenge. And I will get it

"For time at last sets all things even
"And if we do but watch the hour
"There never yet was human power
"Which could evade, if unforgiven
"The patient search, the vigil long
"Of him who treasures up a wrong"

These fellows have wronged me and ere I leave them they shall atone for it. I am now, and for some time have been engaged in a way as profitable and more easy than when in the Institution, and if I desire can continue so during all the present spring and summer. But I think I shall make some arrangement to leave here for Europe on the first in the Spring. I believe the last time I wrote you I expected to go to Paris I have since learned that the Salary formerly given to the Consul there has been stoped and without it the Office is not worth having. I have a grand project in view which I have reason to believe I can accomplish and which I will communicate to you, if the Bill upon which it is dependant, now before Congress, shall pass.

We have here now Dr Reed Surveyor Genl. & Dr. Simmons. I should like to know what they are after. I suspect the latter would like to get the Surgeon of the ~~Marines~~ Hospital's place. I think I must look after him for it may be that I shall return to St Louis and if so I want that myself. But this is entre nous. How is the Profession getting on in St Louis. Can one get money enough to live on if they carry it there? How is the Academy getting on? By the way I wish you would call a meeting and draw up a petition "to the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress," setting forth the History and objects of the Academy and requesting that it may be allowed ~~t~~ a share of the Collections brought home by the U.S. Exploring Expedition. Enclose it "to the Hon Benjamin Tappan" to whom the matter has been

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particularly confided. This Committee has ~~[illegible]~~ now the entire charge and control of these Collections and as Mr Tappan is a warm and particular friend of mine I can back the appeal I think to some effect. If you do this let it be as soon as possible so that it may get here whilst Congress is in Session. This Collection is large and valuable and abounding in duplicates & there is ~~there fore~~ no reason why the Western Academy of Natural Sciences should not participate in them as well as the National Institution, whose insatiate desire to monopolize the whole has been one of the causes why they have all been taken out of its hands. If a movement is made on the subject it perhaps would be as well to address a letter ~~to~~ also ~~Benton~~ to Mr Benton or Dr Linn requesting their influence in the matter. If we get an order for a suite to be made up, and I remain here this summer I will superintend their selection & shipment. Talk this matter over with Dr Brown, and such other of the friends of the Academy as you think proper.

Remember me to Dr Brown and all my friends and believe me Sincerely your friend

H. King

Dr G. Engelmann

P.S. I have not heard directly from Nicollet for more than a month. From what I have heard my anxiety about him increases. I wrote to him a week or ten days ago but get no answer. I wrote to day to Dr Ducatel requesting him to inform me how he is Yours — H K.

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Recd May 3d 1843

Washington April 22. 1843.

My Dear Doctor.

When I last wrote you and even I believe long since I flattered myself that ere this I should have had the pleasure of shaking you by the hand again in St Louis. But as the good book says "no one knows what a day may bring forth": and certainly no one can have had much greater cause to believe at least in this much of that volume than I have. Contrary to all my expectations and all my wishes I find myself fastened here still with apparently no more certainty of when I can leave than I had last autumn. I cannot however with strict justice complain of any thing else than being obliged to remain, as I am well and interestingly employed. I believe you are aware of my engagement with Prof Johnson, under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, in making experiments on Coal. Some few sessions of Congress ago the sum of fifty thousand Dollars were appropriated for this and some other investigations of a like Character. We have a full size double flue high pressure Boiler carefully set up, with all the arrangements & fixtures necessary for a thorough & minutely careful practical investigation of the application of Coal to the generation of Steam. We have already about 35 different kinds of Coal (2 tons of each) for operating upon. About two weeks ago we made a commencement in burning & find we can consume about 1.000 lbs a day. it is therefore probable that the experiments in this way will occupy us until late

Mr Kunze says I forgot to give you his best respects.

next fall; but as it has been determined by the Department, at the request of many of those interested, to have an investigation into the relative value of the Coals for other purposes. such as Domestic uses. generation of Gas, &c. a much longer time may be estimated for the completion of the labour. During the winter we were engaged on the analysis of the Coals, and during the summer shall continue it, at least so far as the fixed residue and the gases generated by the Combustion are concerned. I wish you were here to see our operations. I think you would be pleased with them. I find the subject increasing daily in interest upon me, but still I ~~yearn~~ long to change it for a place in St Louis. I find I have lost much of the zeal for Chemical investigations that I once had; and if I could only complete the arrangement for the Hemp Agency in St Louis, I should be again with you as soon as I could find another to supply my place here. I have the promise of the Agency from the Secretary of the Navy, but as the Amt appropriated is not in his opinion enough to establish both - one in Kentucky & one in Missouri - he hesitates about making the appointment. My friend Judge Edwards, late Representative, has taken great interest in the establishment of the agency & my getting it. and in an interview the day before he left with the Secretary got him to promise to ~~make~~ establish the one in Missouri upon certain conditions which the Judge thinks he will be able to fulfill. Although the Secretary promised me the place, he advised me - entre nous - to obtain as strong recommendations as I could from Missouri, as they might be important to me. Sometime ago I wrote to Dr Brown on the

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subject. and since gave Judge Edwards a Note to him recommending a free conference. I wish you would do me the favour to call on the Doctor, and request him to make the recommendation as strong as he thinks the case will justify and secure the best names he can get, but *particularly* not to delay the sending it on more than a week or ten days after the receipt of this. My reason for being so urgent & thus trespassing upon his friendship is that I expect very soon strong letters of recommendation from Jefferson City & perhaps other parts of the State for my appointment, and the erection of the Agency at St Louis, and I want them to all go into the Secretarys hands about the same time. I feel assured I need but ask to secure your kind offices in furthering this project as far as it lies in your power.

I saw Nicollet a few days ago. Although both in the City, we a more than two miles apart & so much engaged that it is only at intervals, get to see each other. His health is much improved and he talked of going on to Albany to the meeting of the Geologists & Naturalists that commences tomorrow. Prof. Johnson also talks of going but it is doubtful if he can get off. There is but little new in the way of Science in this City. I am sorry to say that our Hope the National Institute still declines. It has several times of late failed to get enough together—with something like 200 resident members in the City—to form a quorum. The false position it has been made to assume by the conduct of a few Clerks & office holders and the severe reproof that two of these received through the Report of the Library Committee has seriously affected its character & capacity for good. I understand that the conduct of these would be *Savans* & managers has called forth a severe letter of rebuke from Mr. Duponceau, the President of the Am. Phil. Society. I have not however seen it, and if this be true, presume no one

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will, as they have the controul of the papers & correspondence. I have strong hopes that such a change will be made at the next election of Officers as will restore it to confidence & public favour.

I hear from time to time that every thing seems much depressed in St Louis. I hope you and the rest of my friends are an exception to it. Does Brown still talk of going away? I hope not. Times must change for the better very soon, and no place will feel it sooner or more sensibly than St Louis. Those who have weathered the storm so far should see it out, they may depend a fair day is breaking upon us. I think it exceedingly possible that if I make the arrangt to return to St Louis Nicollet will return with me, and then our pet the Academy shall have an additional labourer or two in its cause. I believe I mentioned in my last that he wished to be a subscriber to your Botanical Collections. I know of but one other person here likely to become a subscriber, and will mention it to him the first favourable opportunity.

Give my best respects to Brown, Carpenter & all my friends. Should any body visit Washington whom you desire to see me direct them to the Navy Yard where I am operating. Believe me my Dear Friend

Sincerely Yours

H King

To Doctr George Engelmann
St Louis
Mo.

WASHINGTON CITY D.C.
APR

Rec^d Aug. 15th
Answ. Oct. 27

Washington Aug^t. 5. 1843.

My Dear Friend

When was it that I received a letter from you? It seems almost an age; at least it is so long ago that I have forgotten all about its contents and therefore may almost consider this as the commencement of a new series.

I suppose you expected to have seen me in St Louis before this time, if you did not I certainly expected to have seen you there, but the Gods have decreed it otherwise & I must submit. Though "Hope deferred maketh the Heart sick" still when we can do nothing else we must hope on. In my case my hope is strengthened by having reached such a stage in the operations I am now engaged in, that I can with some probability predict their termination. This will probably be during the month of October or early in November. By that time I hope I shall have so matured my other arrangements that I can take my departure for the West once more.

My time is so constantly occupied in our researches on Coal and my location so distant from the active portion of this Metropolis that I know but little of what is going on in the rest of the Scientific world. My old friend Judge Tappan of Ohio, who has the entire charge of the arrangements for the publication of the results of the Exploring Expedition was here a few days ago, and informed me that he was advancing with it so rapidly that it would probably be published next winter. I look forward for it with great anxiety for I have no doubt it will be a valuable & interesting work. The Institute seems to be fast sinking under the miserable management of those who have usurped all authority over it. On this side of the Mountains the Scientific men generally stand aloof from it; as you will see by the character & names attached to such communications as they publish. Judge Tappan has withdrawn from them the entire collection of the Explor. Expedit^n. and at the meeting of the Association of Geologists & Naturalists at Albany this year no notice was taken of this or their invitation to meet in this City next year. I understand that Dr. Pickering who was elected to the Office of Curator has also resigned. I fear there is but little hope for its unless the friends of Science can rally with sufficient strength at the next election to put its destiny in new hands.

Our friend Nicollet has been very ill again for the last week or two days, indeed dangerously so, but the last time I saw him: two days ago he was better & I think out of danger. We often talk about you and picture the beautiful things we shall do together on our return to St Louis. His reduced Map he informs me is ready to go into the hands of the engraver, and his report to which he is making additions will be ready for printing as soon as the Map is done. He desires to be remembered to you.

I wrote to Dr. Brown some time ago requesting him to furnish me, for a Bd of Examiners on Safety Valves now sitting here, with an estimate of the amt of sediment or Earthy Matter per lb or gallon in the Mississippi or rather Missouri water and requested him if necessary to ask your assistance. I have no other interest in it than that of serving the cause of humanity & Science, but these & the friendly feelings I have for the Gentlemen of the Bd were enough to induce me to tax your kindness. Nothing more is desired than simply to evaporate the water & weigh the residuum. A quart or at most a Gallon of water would be amply sufficient.

Let me hear from you as soon as convenient. Give my respects to Drs Brown. Carpenter &c.

I am my dear Doctor sincerely your Friend
& Obt. St
H. King

Dr G. Engelmann.

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To

Doct. George Engelmann

St Louis

Mo.

Recd Dec 13th
Ans. Febr. 9th 1844

Washington Decr. 3d. 1843.

My Dear Friend

It is with no small degree of pleasure I assure you that I acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you a few days ago. It had been so long since I received one that I began to fear ~~the~~ time was begining to have its effect upon our once cherished and with me still desired friendship. It is more my misfortune than my fault that I have been so long separated from my home & my friends, but a few months more I hope will see me again among you. One of the most pleasing prospects that that event presents to me, is the finding my friends what they were when we parted. But enough of this.

I am sorry I cannot give you much satisfaction as to the condition in which our friend Nicollet left his affairs. I have reason to hope he made some disposition of his effects by will or otherwise but have not yet been able to learn any thing certain, except as to his work on Indian Languages which he entrusted to a friend Dr. Martin a very intelligent gentleman of this City, just before he died with authority to make what disposition of it he might deem proper. My own engagements have been so incessant all summer that I could not see him near as much as I desired. He had been confined to his room & bed one or two months before his decease, during which I saw him as frequently as possible, the last time a few days before his death. he seemed so much better that I flattered myself in again seeing him out in a short time, but unfortunately the next thing I learned of him was the announcement of his death in the Intelligencer. His collections and most of his Books & papers were in Baltimore, a part at St Marys College & the rest at Dr Ducatels. I shall endeavor to ascertain something in relation to them before I leave the East. Although he had finished & presented his Report, he again withdrew it to make some further improvements in it, which I fear were not entirely completed at his death.

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What a consummate scoundrel that Geyer must be. Poor Nicollet had often expressed to me his opinion of him, and I am sorry to learn that you too have had so much cause to confirm it. There is some gratification I suppose however in knowing that he has so thoroughly exposed himself that he will never again venture to show himself in Missouri.

I am very sorry to say that the opinion expressed to you by Audubon in relation to the National Institution is the prevailing one with all scientific men on this side of the Mountains. From the injudicious management of those who have usurped all authority over it, it has been brought to an eminently perilous condition, and from which its sincere friends fear it will be impossible to rescue it. The conduct of these men towards the Scientific Corps of the Exploring Expedition has created in Congress a violent hostility to the Institute, & caused it to lose not only the incidental advantages that it had from its connexion with that Expedition, but also to be expelled from the splendid Hall over which it had control in the Patent Office. At the last Session the Hall & all the Collections of Government that we had had under our charge was taken from us and placed in Charge of the Library Committee, and now instead of "the National Institution" over the door of entrance in large gold letters is "the Collection of the United States Exploring Expedition" I saw from the first that the course the managers of the Institution were taking would be highly dangerous if not fatal to the Institution, and therefore did all in my power to arrest them, but in vain. My purposes were misrepresented & finally myself victimised. Scarcely a year elapsed however before all saw that my advice ought to have been followed, and those who then became my bitterest enemies & successful persecutors now meet me with a smile & demeanour excruciatingly amiable. If at the next election these men who have brought the Institution to this fearful condition, will have the prudence to resign & withdraw from all pretension to its control or if we can muster enough votes to turn them out, if they will not resign, and place the management in the hands of real men of Science, we may resuscitate it, if neither of these conditions be accomplished, its fate is sealed, without hope.

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A Bill will be introduced into Congress early in its Session for the organization of the Smithsonian Institute, based upon liberal & enlightened principles but entirely disconnected with the National Institute, and thus its hope in that quarter is gone. As well satisfied as I am that I am now sitting here, writing you this, am I, that if a proper course had been pursued by those who have managed the affairs of the National Institute, they could have secured the controul of the Smithsonian. I will send you a Copy of the Bill as soon as it is printed.

I am greatly obliged to you, Dr. Brown & my other friends for their efforts for me in relation to the Hemp Agency. I have had a powerful recommendation also from other directions, one particularly from Jefferson City signed by the Governor & all the principal Officers of the State. I feel very strong assurances that I shall finally get the Office tho' I presume not until a further appropriation is made as that is the only reason assigned for not making the appointment. Before the condition of the funds were known I had the positive promise of it from the then Secretary of the Navy Judge Upshur, and I have no cause to doubt the fulfillment of the promise by the present one when there is money enough to justify it.

I believe I have kept you acquainted with my occupation during the present year. I am still engaged in the Experiments on Coal and probably shall not get through in less than a couple of Months yet. I flatter myself that when done we shall be able to present to the world one of the most, splendid, thorough & scientific series of investigations on this important subject that has ever been seen on any similar case. We shall go to Philadelphia, in the course of about 10 days or 2 weeks to prosecute the analytic investigations of those Coals that have been received since we commenced burning. I shall probably be detained 3 or 4 weeks there. Should you write however during the time continue to address me here (Navy Yard Washington City) as my family will remain & forward me my letters during my absence.

Give my respects to all my friends & accept the assurance of my continued friendship & Esteem

H. King

Can't you prevail on Dr. Brown to write me. I would almost beg a letter from him if I thought it would avail. Give him my best respects.
H. K.

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WASHINGTON

To
Doct. George Engelmann
St Louis
Mo.

Recd April 17th
Ans April 19th

Washington April 6. 1844

My Dear Doctor.

I have just returned from Philadelphia where I have been spending the last three months, in preparing my Report on Coal. Although so much engaged the little leisure I had I passed very agreeably and I believe profitably among the Savans & Institutions of that City. It will take me probably a month longer to finish the Report, and as this will bring me very near the time of Meeting of the Geological Association, I shall wait for that, and then take my departure again for the West. You may therefore expect that I shall have the pleasure of shaking you once more by the hand in the City of St Louis during the month of May.

I have taken the liberty of recommending a young Gentleman of Philadelphia, a Son of Mr Isaac Lea the Conchologist to open a correspondence with you. He is warmly devoted to Botany and I think you will find him a valuable correspondent. His father is a particular friend of mine and I shall esteem it a personal favour if you will place him on your list of exchanging correspondents. He has prepared a small package which will be forwarded to you through some of his fathers Agents in St Louis, and through whom I think you may conduct exchanges without expense. Mr Lea (Senior) you know is one of the partners of the large publishing House of Carey & Lea. Philª.

I called on Prof. Espy since my return but did not find him at home. Before I left he was very busily engaged in working up the materials he had collected, and I have no doubt will present a valuable report on the subject as soon as possible. His manner of exhibiting the great Storms that pass over the Country is very clear & interesting. He has a large number of small outline Maps of the U. States lithographed and using one of these for every day in the year he jots down the Meteorological condition of that day as collected from the reports of his correspondents. By this means he is not only able to show the difference in the Meteorological condition of the various portions of the Union on any particular day, but to exhibit the progress & attending phenomena of the various Storms that pass over the Country in the plainest & most satisfactory manner. It will necessarily require time to complete so extensive a work, but when completed I think all will feel gratified who have contributed towards the result.

Fremonts Reports I understand are entirely exhausted but it is probable that it will be republished in connexion with the one he will have to make of the Exploration he is now engaged on. at that time I hope we shall be able to obtain additional copies. I cannot hear a word about Nicollets Report. Some months will elapse I think before any part of the Exploring Expedition will be out. The Botanical part of the latter is undergoing arrangt. & description by Mr. Rich the Botanist of the Expedition.

I hope you will not fail to send us something to the Geological Meeting. My impression is that it will be one of the most interesting we have yet held. Although I shall be very closely occupied in the Report on Coal, I shall endeavour to present something myself. The Meeting of the National Institute that has been held this week, has not had the benefit of the light of the larger luminaries of Science of the Country, except perhaps two or three, whose other business called them to this City at this time. I found the most prominent men of Philadelphia rather cool towards the Institute & I understand a similar feeling exists in Boston. This will explain why you see so few of the great names of those Cities among the contributors to the present meeting. As most of these men belong to the Geological Association I anticipate a very full attendance of them at their May meeting.

What think you of making our friend Lindheimer a Member of the Academy of Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia. I can have it done and if you think it advisable send me in his name & place of residence in full. I presume it would be a gratification to have an acknowledgment from such a quarter that his labours in Science are appreciated in this Country. The only expense would be for the Diploma which according to a late law of the Academy costs 5$.

I am very glad to hear that you have verified the existence of Cobalt in Missouri, I recollect to have detected it in a single specimen I was examining some years ago, but could not find out from what particular part of the State it came. A very valuable Silver Mine has lately been discovered in North Carolina which is now being worked according to the Statement of the proprietors to great advantage. Specimens of the Ore & the Books of the Company were shown me whilst in Philadelphia, and certainly *they* tell a very favourable story.

My respects to Dr Brown and believe me sincerely

Your Friend

H. King

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APR
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To Doct. George Engelmann
St Louis
Mo.

Recd May 14th
mineral country.

Washington May 5. 1844

My Dear Doctor.

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt a few days ago of yours of the 19th ulto. I have not had time yet to call on Mr Rich in relation to the Cuscuta but shall endeavour to do so in a day or two, tho' I must warn you to be prepared for a failure in my application. There is a je ne sais quoi about those men of the Exploring Expedition, that has always impressed me rather unfavourably as to their liberality. I shall see however what can be done.

I am very sorry you cannot come on to our Meeting. I have strong hopes that it will be a very interesting one and that it would afford you much gratification. I am preparing an Article for it on the Galeniferous and Carboniferous formations of the Mississippi Valley above the Ohio, but fear from the little time I have to spare from our Coal Report that I shall not be able to do it justice. I regret that for the time it will yet require to finish our Coal Report I shall not be able to be with you as early as I expected. I regret this the more as the trip you propose is precisely the one I wish particularly to make, as it embraces a portion of the Geology of our State with which I have the least acquaintance. I find my Notes & Observations on the Lead & Coal bearing formations very full, and sufficient I think if I had time, to give a very satisfactory Report upon them. I will not ask it, but if you could delay your tour until Autumn, which by the way you know is much the most pleasant season for travelling in the West, I have no doubt I could accompany you.

Recd May 14th

I understand from Dr. Relfe that the Cobalt Ore has been found in several other places besides La Motte. Is not this an other evidence of the hidden resources of our State? The more I reflect upon what thus accidentally as it were comes to light, and what I have seen myself, the more convinced I am that we are only on the threshold of the real Mineral resources of our State. The formation underlying our Lead bearing series (I mean the Silicious Rock, that appears to rest upon the primitive) has never I believe been properly examined. There is I think good cause to hope that they too will prove of a rich Mineral character. At least there is already enough known I think to ensure us that Mining and Metallurgy would become very soon an important pursuit in our State, if we could infuse a little more knowledge and judgment into those who have the control of our Mines. You want to know what I intend doing on my return to St. Louis, my *fixed* occupation is yet a little uncertain & dependant upon contingencies, but whatever it may be I have determined to devote myself as far as possible to such Scientific pursuits as are directly or indirectly connected with the development of our Mineral Resources. To subjects connected with Mining & Metallurgy I have for a considerable time been particularly devoting myself. Our operations in Coal, has given me many facilities for studying Steam & Steam engines, (an important part of the Machinery of Mining), these added to a pretty fair acquaintance with Geology and its collateral branches, particularly the Geology of the Western States, will I think give me tolerably fair position in every thing relating to Mining & Metallurgy in Missouri. There therefore I shall endeavour to make my ultimate pursuits, whatever circumstances may induce me to commence with.

Although it does not lay in my line. I suppose I must tell you that political matters are running very high here just nine. The Clay Convention has brought immense number of Strangers to our City, and the appearance of the letters of the two prominent Candidates Clay & Van Buren, in relation to Texas has produced quite an excitement. The latter has evidently done himself immense, if not irreparable injury by his.. The Pennsylvania, Southern & Most of the western Democratic Members of Congress are so much affected by it, that there seems to be a determination to prevent his nomination at Balt. or if unsuccessful to bring out a new Candidate, or take up Mr. Tyler,

Why does not Dr. Brown write me? Give him my Respects and tell him he owes me a letter, and as he is I know punctual in paying his debts, I shall expect it very soon.

I am Dr. Doctor
Sincerely your friend
H King

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MAY
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To Doct. George Engelmann
St. Louis
Mo.

King

Rec^d Nov 16th —
Ans Jan 4

Washington D.C. Nov 12. 1858.

Dr Doctor

I received yours of the 8th inst yesterday enclosing one to Mr Siebert, which I delivered last night, and this morning saw him on the subject. He says he has not yet proofed any of the plates of your work, but will now commence them, and that your impressions shall be from the first struck off. I am glad to hear that the remaining plates are likely to soon arrive, as I learned there was so much anxiety to get the work out that if they did not soon arrive they would be left out. I did not notice that the note enclosed in my envelope was for S. until I had read it nearly or quite through: no impropriety I hope in doing it, as it afforded me an opportunity of knowing what you wanted him to do. When I saw him this morning, he had not read it, as it was early and he was not at home when I delivered it last night. I presume however, as he appears very friendly, that he will if possible make the corrections you desire. I also saw Mr Campbell yesterday and told him of the shipment of the plates and of your intention of Sending him the corrections &c. in a few days.

I presume, tho' I have not now any distinct recollection of having done so, that I acknowledged the receipt of your former letter with the money enclosed. I am so closely pressed with business during office hours, ~~that~~ it is only now and then that I can snatch a few moments for my private correspondence. The consequence is that I have often to put off, writing from day to day until my best intentions fade away into forgetfulness. Routine office duties are a kind of tread mill business, from which a man goes home so tired & exhausted that he can scarcely raise energy enough to do any thing more, except eat & read for the balance of the day. I therefore scarcely ever write a letter at home, preferring as I do this afternoon, when I cannot find other time, to remain in my office for a half hour or so for this purpose, after the regular office hours. But that is not telling you, what I ought to have done, if I did not, that I did receive the letter referred to. And it appears to me that I told you as I

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certainly interested to tell you that I had secured your copies of the text from the printer and have them now at my house boxed up.

I am glad to hear you are in the "full tide of successful" practice again. The change must be a little difficult, at first, but that will soon wear off.

Give my kindest respects to Mrs Engelman, and you may tell her ~~that~~ there is a high degree of probability that Mrs Hyde will spend the winter in St Louis. We are all well.

Believe Dr Doctor

Yours Sincerely

H. King

Doct Geo. Engelmann
St Louis Mo

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Recd St Louis Aug 31st
Ans Sept 3d

Washington Augt 28th 1858.

Dr Doctor

As it was drawing towards the close of the month, I have been so much occupied I could not find time to write you before.

On the morning of your departure I left the engravings with Seybert and put your letters in the Office. Dr Torry's I had franked by Mr Campbell or rather the Secretary, as it related to business of the Office. Feeling some apprehension as to the letter you told me to send without paying for I thought it best to pay for all (the others) — am $1.17 cts — Your books have been sent to my house where they can remain as long as you please. they are all boxed up safely. I saw the foreman of the office after you left and requested him to send me some additional numbers, which as I have seen him since, he says he did, but how many I do not know, as I have not received any acct from him yet. They were all sent in the same box together —

I hope you have all arrived here safe and find every thing in a satisfactory condition. We are all well. Give my kindest regards to Mrs Engelmann —

In haste,

Sincerely yours

H. King

Doct G. Engelmann —
St Louis Mo.

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Recd May 27
Ans June 9th

Washington May 23. 1859.

My Dear Friend

I received yours of the 19th inst yesterday, and plead guilty to some extent to its charge of negligence in writing, but do not think I am quite so bad about it as yours seems to indicate. I must have written you of the receipt of the letter press of your Cactaceae, long ago; at least there is a strong impression on my mind of my having done so, and also of the copies you desired of the printed addition thereto, and I have an indistinct impression also of having received a letter from you since, telling me to take care of them until the plates were printed. If I am mistaken I must only throw myself upon your kind forgiving temperament & my own good intentions.

I have called several times at Leybold's about the plates, and day before yesterday he called on me to say that they were all ready, and wished to know what disposition to make of them. I promised to write you to day (Monday) on the subject, and should have done if I had not heard from you. So you may make yourself perfectly easy now on the subject, as the whole is now done — original matter, corrections and plates — and subject to any arrangement you may desire to make of them. I think you can get the binding done here cheaper than in St Louis as the public printing requires more extensive arrangements for this purpose than is commonly found in private establishments. But I do not exactly understand the manner in which you desire to have it done; I will however enquire into the matter and in the mean time you can give me more definite information as to your wishes. which will enable me to give you some thing like exactness as to the price here. Of course I will with pleasure distribute the copies you desire to your correspondents. or do any thing else in the matter you desire, for although I may not be a very good correspondent, I am not neglectful of the interests or wishes, otherwise of my old friends.

My kindest regards to Mrs. E. & my family are all well and join in the desire to be remembered to you & her

Very Sincerely

Yours

H. King

Dr Geo. Engelmann
St Louis,
Mo.

Send Cactaceae to Torrey
if 20 or are bound Gray
Thurber
Schott
Parry
Bigelow
Agassiz
Curtis
Short
Durand
Phil Acad.
Lindheimer

broschirt 120 } 122 to Mett and 116 6
gebunden 2
broschirt 28 [illegible] 22 6 bound 6
broschirt 46 } [illegible] 42
gebunden 4 } [illegible] 8
200

120 to Germany
Prof Mettenius

~~Smithsonian Instit. send for me 120 Copies~~
~~to Prof Mettenius~~
~~King shall send 50 to me~~
~~distribute 30 as directed.~~

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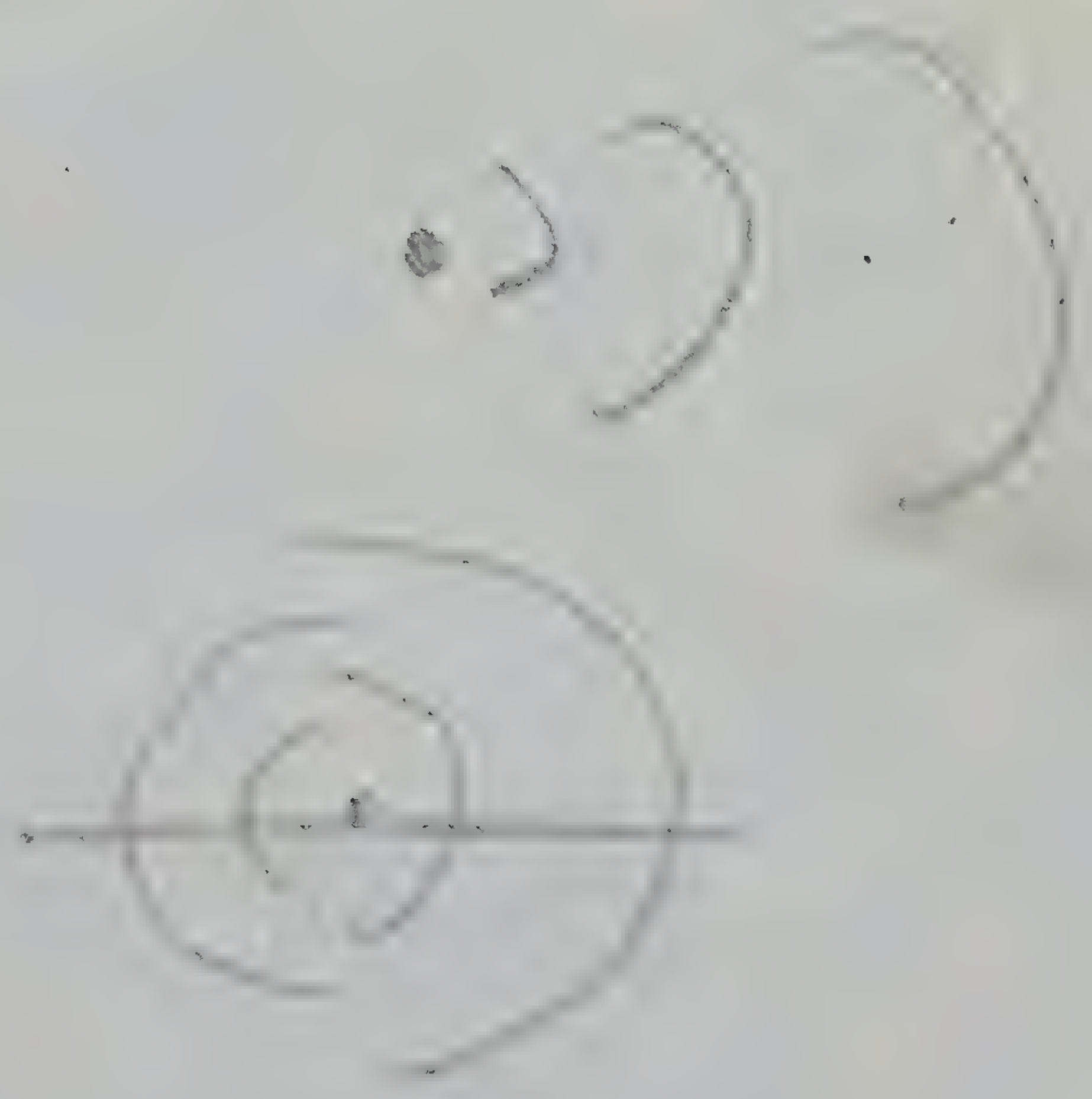

Recd June 23d

Washington June 22. 1859.

My Dear Friend

Having previously had a conversation with him on the subject, immediately on the receipt of your letter I sent for the book binder that does the work for the Smithsonian and made a contract with him to bind 120 numbers of your work, in the manner you designated at 15 cents per no. They are to be in the style & manner of the paper backs of the Smithsonian books, except that he puts a ticket or label on the back, as in ordinary books, instead of printing a title on the cover. To have done the latter would have added 3 or 4 cents more to each number he informed me as he would have to pay that for printing them. He thinks that as it will be a tolerably thick volume, the title on the back will be quite as proper. I wish you would write me what the title shall be, if you approve of this plan. The letter press or type I sent the next day to his house and directed him to call on Mr Sybert who I had seen some short time before on the for the plates. On doing so he learned that the Public ~~Printer~~ Binder had demanded and received all that had been printed, a day or two before, I called yesterday to see Mr Seybert on the subject, who corroborated the statement, but told me he could have yours again ready in 8 or 10 days. He seemed very sorry, particularly when I told him how anxious you were to have them sent to Europe by the 1st of July Shipment. As it is evident he could not now have them done in that time, I told him I thought it would be best not to hurry them, but take such time as might be necessary to do them well. Under the circumstances I thought this the best, and he promised me he would have them done in the very best manner, I hope it will be some relief to your disappointment.

I did not make any positive arrangement with the binder for doing the other volumes, as you did not seem to be in such hurry for them. He offers to bind them in the style of Smithsonian "Contributions" at 60 cents a volume; the price he says he gets

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from the Smithsonian, except that in that case also he will have to put the title on the back with a label. He is considered one of the best if not the best binding in the City, and I think will do the work faithfully. Let me know what I shall do.

If I had time I should like to write you some lines on Politics, as I see by your letter, it is a subject to which you are not entirely indifferent. I hope the German population are beginning since the action of Massachusetts, to have their judgment get a little the better of their prejudices or fancies, and see the impropriety not to say ingratitude of their course, in leaving a party that has always been their friends, and taking up with that one, who deceived and then spurned them: If they think *still* that a German who has been five years in Mass. is not so good a citizen as a nigger just landed the day before, from the under ground Rail Road, then of course they have the reward that their faithlessness to the Democratic party deserves. They have succeeded in making

the nigger their equal, if not a little
their superior. But I have not time
to give you all nay even a faint sketch
of my ideas. I must say here that
the political course the larger portion of the German
population has pursued within
last few years, has not an example
in the history of this century, and if it
do not produce an unpleasant re-
action upon them, they will be fortu-
nate. There is a low, deep murmuring
of public sentiment that bodes no good.

Excuse my dear friend these
slap dash lines and believe me
Sincerely yours H. King
Dr G. Engelmann

P.S. almost forgot to say that Mrs
Hyde arrived day before yesterday, looking very
well, and full of St Louis, of which she gives the
most rapturous accounts. Oh how I wish I
was back again! Adieu H.K.

Respects to Mrs E. we are all
well ——

Rec'd Aug 14 1859
Ans. Aug 23 & 3d Octob

Washington Aug. 10. 1859.

Dr. Doctor

I send you to day by mail under the frank of the Chief Clk. Dep't of the Interior, a copy of your report on the Cactaceae, that you may see the style of binding with paper covers. I directed the Binder to put up 180 copies in this form; the other 20 to remain subject to future direction. They are done and were this morning brought to my room at the Patent Office, as the safest place for them. The Binder tells me that some of the plates are yet wanting to some of the 20 remaining copies, but these I will have supplied him as soon as Mr Seybert, who is now absent, returns to the City. I am under the impression that the Smithsonian does not send out books again to Europe before October, but will endeavor to be certain about it in a few days. As this is a fire proof building I think it will be best to let these bound copies

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remain here until you decide what shall be done with them: they are not in my way, and can remain free of charge and perfectly safe. I enclose the Binder's Bill and also one for the printer.

This being the dull season in Washington, we have little or no news. Parties are drumming up & marshaling their forces for next winter's operations, but it is difficult to say what will be their relative strength. The Democrats appear confident, as to the final result, but the present difficulty seems to be in arranging the personal claims of the leaders.

My kindest regards to Mrs E. We are all well.

Yours Sincerely
H. King

Dr. Geo Engelmann
St Louis Mo.

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Note. Give me directions how you wish the Cactaceae disposed of & it shall be attended to as soon as possible +

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Recd Octob 20th
Ans Nov 3d
& 23d

Washington Oct. 17. 1859.

Dear Doctor

I received yours by Mr Soulard and intended to have written the next day, but was taken sick that night and have not until the present felt in order to do so. I sent however immediately under the frank of our Commissioner, two copies of the Cactaceae, which I hope you have received, that you might see the style of the binding. I regret to have to tell you that I had 20 copies done in this way, as it seems it was your intention only to have six; but the error was in following the instructions in your former letters. I hope however ~~that~~ the improvement which this style gives to the appearance of the work will please you so much as to remove any regret for the mistake. I saw Prof. Henry last week and he, in a conversation on the subject, said it would be time enough to send through the Smithsonian this fall, if I got the package ready in 3 or 4 weeks time. I can distribute under frank any number you may desire, and will have them put up in our (Pat. Of.) folding room in the manner I sent and suppose you received the two I sent last week.

As I did not give Mayr Clark his copy as coming from you, not having any authority to do so, but as from myself, I must explain how & why I took that liberty. Knowing you would want all of your own, to dispose of to friends who would have to depend on you only, and with the surplus regain some of the heavy expense you would necessarily have to incur in the matter, I obtained from the printer & engraver (a plate printer Seybert,) a few extra copies (14) for myself. these not yet having been sent me from the binder, I took the liberty of using one of your copies for presentation Mayr. Clark intending to replace it from my own.

I have been endeavouring to get you a presentation copy of the entire boundary Survey, but have not succeeded and fear I shall not. The second volume is very scarce

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and only a few of them to be had now by purchase. Unless Congress orders another Edition, which I do not think probable, there will soon be none on sale. I can get the 2d vol, for 8$. or the two together for 10$. at present.

Enclosed I send Seyberts Bill for printing $98.80 and Lycetts for binding $42.00. These, with those formerly sent I believe are all

Vizt. Lycetts for binding	$27.00
do.	15.00
Seiberts for printing	98.80
Wendel's " printing	4.00
	$144.80
" "	25.
	$169.80
	8.

We are now all well; my kindest respects to Mrs Engelmann.

Sincerely yours
J H King

150 Whipple Cact. cost 45.17
binding —— 22.50
67.67

[illegible]
75
150
225

144.80
Sundry 8
152.80

Dr Sir

Permit me to introduce to you the Bearer M. Uzielli of Leghorn (Italy) Mr. U. is making a tour of observation through the United States in the course of which he visits St Louis. By giving him the attention due to a stranger and gentleman you will confer a favor on

Your friend and Obedient Sv

J. A. King

Dr Geo Engleman
St Louis Mo.

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Recd March 30th
Ans April 16th

Washington DC. March 27. '60

Dear Doctor

I sent you a box by Adams Express a few days ago, (see inclosed receipt) containing 29 Copies of the Cactaceae. I have five more which I could not get in the Box, but will send by Mail as soon as I can get a Member of Congress to frank them. There ought to have been 34 in all, the missing one I suppose some one has taken from my room. If it is not returned, I will send one from some copies I have at the binders as soon as they come in. I intended to save you the expense of sending by Express, but found it so difficult to get them franked, that I gave up the effort. I succeeded in getting those you wished distributed, sent under the frank of Col. Woods, one of our State, & presume they have reached their destination. As the box was addressed to you at St Louis you will no doubt find it on calling at the Express office. (Adams')

I reserved the copy you were kind enough to present, not because it was necessary to me, as I shall have several others secured in my own right, but because of the presentation card, which I have had affixed to it. By the way I ought to have mentioned that I had the other cards attached in the same way to all of those distributed. I am much obliged to you, but the only return I can make, is to promise whenever I write a book, to reciprocate the favour.

It will not do to say we have nothing new here, for every day something new turns up, in a city like this, when Congress is in session, with its horde of hangers on, hanging around; but like the figures of a kaleidoscope, the changes mean nothing. It is all party, politics & president making. I really don't believe there is as much respect or sympathy for Science ~~in~~ the country at this time, as there was twenty five years ago. Our children may see better times, but our generation is done for. The worship of

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the almighty dollar was, bad enough, but we have sunk from that to the almighty nigger. Let us hope we have fathomed the "deepest deep" and that whatever change the future may bring, it must be upward. What have you new in St Louis?

My kindest regards to Mrs. E. in which as well as to yourself my family all join.

I am Dr Doctor

Sincerely yours

Doct G. Engelmann
St Louis Mo.

H. King

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Recd July 14
Ans July 15

Washington July 9. 1862

Doct G. Engelmann

Dr. Doctor

Yours of the 29th May with the enclosure to Col. Simpson was duly received. The latter I had forwarded immediately through the War depart. and hope it was received in time to give you a reply. You have heard no doubt that he was one of the victims in this unfortunate war, in the late battles before Richmond. When are such records to end? When will the madness which seems to pervade so large a portion of the people of this country subside? All that the few of us, not affected by it can do, is to look on calmly and commiseratingly. No medicaments that we could prescribe would reach the disease; it

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must wear itself out. We see desolation and ruin as the inevitable result, but we are impotent. Madmen rule and madmen serve; a few: perhaps too many: atrocious pretenders affect the disease that they may the more effectually accomplish their purposes by urging on the others. Power is right, patriotism, submission, and the cause of freedom, a war against the laws of God and of Nature!! We must watch and pray.

Remember me in the kindest manner to Mrs E. My family are all well, and endeavoring to make ourselves as comfortable and happy as possible in quiet retirement. The business of our firm has so far proved reasonably satisfactory, and we flatter ourselves that it will ultimately be entirely so

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Mr. Hyde and George are well; they have gone to the country where they will remain a few weeks.

Believe me

Yours Sincerely

H. King

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No. 1.]

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To Dr Geo Engleman

R From Georgetown DC Dated 15

Rec'd Aug 15 186 1145 a M.

Dr H King died fourteenth 14

inst Funeral Thursday please put

notice in papers

C J M Hyde

13 DH Opr

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